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1. Monsignors Sramek and Hala, leaders of the People's Party, learned early in 1946 that Alois Petr, Member of Parliament and Secretary General of the People's Party, had committed a serious fraud. On the occasion of the currency reform he had raised a considerable amount of money (about 2,000,000 crowns) in the old worthless Protectorate currency and had received the parity rate for it by declaring it to be funds belonging to the People's Party. He had then used the money for his own ends. When Sramek and Hala became aware of this, they began to push Petr out of his position, which had hitherto been prominent. For the time being they let him keep his leading role in the Party, but eliminated him from the secretariat immediately. By May 1946 it was a question whether he would be admitted to Parliament at all. However, since the investigation of his case had not yet been completed at that time, he still was able to run for reelection. By the end of 1946 Sramek had collected exact evidence of Petr's embezzlement, and the latter's complete exclusion from politics seemed only a question of time. In his desperation, Petr posed as a left-winger within the People's Party and developed increasingly intimate relations with the Communists. The latter approached source at this time with queries as to Petr's reliability. Meanwhile, Petr was being omitted from invitations at the Parliamentary Club. Source was witness to his dissolute way of living at this time and notes that nothing seemed to matter to him any more.

2. Petr welcomed the coup d'etat in February 1948 and, when he was approached by Minister Cepicka, immediately put himself at the disposal of the Communists. Petr declares that he selected and made Plojhar the second minister from the People's Party in the new cabinet, and it is known that at that time the Communists were carrying on their negotiations with the People's Party only through Petr. Petr himself was appointed Minister of Transport. In this position one of his functions has been the issuing of warrants for the purchase of automobiles to officials as well as to private individuals. Each of these warrants has a value of 50,000 to 60,000 Kcs., and so far Petr has issued about sixty of them illegally, i.e. to unauthorized persons. For instance, a certain businessman received four warrants from him in the space of about five months. The Communists around Petr knew of these transactions and even condoned them so as to get a tighter hold on him.

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3. Meanwhile, the balance of power in the People's Party was shifting slowly from Petr to Plojhar, who had been less well known. Plojhar began to check himself in the excesses of his private life (he drank excessively and was known for his many love affairs) and began to advance rapidly. By May and June 1948 it was apparent that Plojhar was the top man in the People's Party, and the Communists would negotiate only with him. In Cabinet meetings Petr was snubbed and almost lost the right to speak. His suggestions were turned down without discussion, and he became an embarrassing figure. Plojhar, however, is on intimate terms with Gottwald and Slansky and is often invited to their houses. He often makes speeches at meetings of Communist workers.
4. Petr would like to bring about an agreement between the Communists and Archbishop Beran, whereas Plojhar advocates an uncompromising and harsh attitude toward the Church. The Archbishop is just as uncompromising. On one occasion, when invited to a meeting with representatives of the Communist Party, Beran excused himself and compelled them to come as far as Benesov to meet him, where he was at that time busied with confirmations. In his famous sermon about St. Wenceslaus and Boleslav the implied comparison with himself and Gottwald was plain to his listeners. (St. Wenceslaus, who favored Western influences in Bohemia, was murdered on the steps of a church by his brother, Boleslav, who had seized the throne from him.) Churches are crowded by people hoping to hear some words of criticism, even in disguised form, of the Government.
5. Among the leaders of the People's Party there is still another personality worth mentioning here: Dr. Dionysius Polansky. Polansky considers that even Plojhar is not sufficiently leftist. He is a friend of Cepicka and maintains close relations with a certain official at the Soviet Embassy. He is frequently picked up, by arrangement, by a Russian car at a night club or a party and taken to the Soviet Embassy. Source saw this happen one night at 11:00, when Polansky was in a state of complete intoxication. Apparently he and Plojhar go much too far to suit Petr, but the latter is unable to do anything about it.

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